c) second set of elongated nested channels disposed on a second side of said central beam and oriented in a direction opposite said first set of elongated nested channels; and

d) one or more fasteners securing said first and second sets of elongated nested channels to said central beam.

44. A method of constructing a modular I-beam, said method comprising:

a) forming a first set of elongated nested channels;

b) forming a second set of elongated nested channels;

c) disposing said first and second sets of elongated nested channels in back-to-back relation to one another; and

d) fastening said first and second sets of elongated nested channels together.

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 24, and 41 in view of the patent to Konger. For reasons discussed more fully below, Applicant believes that the patent to Konger does not teach or suggest "elongated nested channels" as recited in the claims, and therefore believes that the claims define over Konger. Reconsideration of this application in light of the following comments is therefore respectfully requested.

The invention in this case relates to a modular steel I-beam comprising first and second sets of nested channels disposed in back-to-back relationship. The term "nested channels" as used in the claim means a set of channels in which the individual members of the set are contained in or contain another member of the set. In other words, the phrase "nested channels" refers to a set of differently-sized channels that fit inside one another. The patent to Konger does not disclose "nested channels" as defined in the claims.